

# Language gap is overcome; Harmonium plays at Con Hall

By ARA ROSE PARKER  
Politicking and culture pushing aside, the communication gap was joyously bridged with the music of Quebec's Harmonium, at Convocation Hall Sunday night.

It wasn't the forty minute wait outside in the cold for the Hall doors to open, it was the rumour of the new music that set the bilingual crowd rushing to their seats.

Harmonium's entrance on stage was met with total applause, a most welcome and perhaps unexpected audience.

Serge Fiori, lyricist, composer and main stay, introduced the new Harmonium. The group has expanded into seven members, consisting of guitarists, two electric keyboard players, a wind moog, drummer and a supporting female vocalist, who are all outstanding in their own right.

One waited anxiously for some familiar sets from Harmonium's first albums, but instead was pleasantly introduced to music from their newest, "L'heptude". Fiori explained first in French, then briskly translated for the sympathetic crowd in English, that for the most part the new music is an exploration into the different levels of consciousness.

The former simplicity of Harmonium's music is not lost, the purity of their music is still there. It is rare that in expansion and development, a group can remain

in touch with the essence of their sound.

The change is a slight stylistic one, at times drifting into the realms of rock, at other times touching jazz.

The poetry of Harmonium can be appreciated by those who still find French a mental barrier, in the

warmth of the harmonies and melodies. There are several echoes of their earlier music, revised and explored throughout the fabric of the present group.

The sounds are rich and friendly, and Sunday night was one of the first hopeful glimpses that Canadians can enjoy good music from within the national boundaries.

## Parting Shots

A few days ago, I had the pleasure of talking to Anthony Phillips, one of the driving forces behind Genesis. He was in town promoting his new album, "The Geese and the Ghost". Rather than talk about himself and his album, we became engrossed in a discussion about classical composers and "progressive rock". Both appear to be strong influences on the album, which is a multi-tracked job in the technical style of Mike Oldfield (i.e., only two musicians play a large assortment of overdubbed instruments). The resemblance with Tubular Bells ends there, however. Though it has an easy tempo, and an extremely lyrical quality to it, the music is devoid of the "Morbid" flavour often attributed to the Oldfield album. Often light and bouncy, "Geese" is a very enjoyable album. It's mainly an instrumental, though Phillips' comrade in arms, Phil Collins, provides a few vocal interludes.

Tanx for da memories: It's been a long year, and I'm sure you're just as glad as I am to get it over with. Have an entertaining summer.

Hi to Rye High

Evan Leibovitch



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